

**WHOLE SCHOOL**

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the latest messages, including some really important information on plans for re-opening the school to all students and examinations for this summer. I'm sure you share my excitement about getting all students back into school and, with it, a sense of optimism that the worst might well be over now.

We will, of course, be in touch next week with all the final details.

Kind regards

Gwyn Williams

**Re-opening and Testing**

I am delighted to be able to say that we have managed to come up with a plan that avoids a staggered start and means all students can now return to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. Further details will follow next week but I wanted to let you know the outline as soon as possible so that you can make your own plans.

In order to get everyone back in lessons on this date, we will be offering the lateral flow tests to all students on either Thursday or Friday next week (i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> March). We would like students to come into school for a test at some point during their allotted timeslot (see below) and then return home to continue with their learning.

We strongly encourage you to ensure your child comes for a test; the more who do so, the safer we can keep everyone when we are back in school. We understand it might be a little inconvenient but doing it this way means we can get all students back into face-to-face lessons at the very earliest opportunity.

We would really appreciate it if you could stick to your allocated timeslot so we can safely manage the process. However, if coming during your timeslot is impossible then we would prefer students to come any time that you can manage rather than miss out altogether. Similarly, if you have children in different year groups and it would be especially inconvenient for them to come at different times, then we would rather you brought them all together than not at all.

Students can, of course, walk to school to get the tests – please just remind them of the importance of social distancing and the need to return home immediately after the test. If you bring them by car, you will need to wait in the car while students go into the Sports Hall for the tests. It is difficult to be sure how long the wait will be, but it ought to be only a few minutes and is extremely unlikely to be more than half an hour.

Mr Johnson will be in touch next week with any further details on this but, for now, please note the following timeslots:

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

Year Group / Tutor Groups	Time
Year 11 – L forms	8.30am – 9.20am
Year 11 – H forms	9.30am – 10.20am
Year 10 – L forms	10.40am – 11.30am
Year 10 – H forms	11.40am – 12.30pm
Year 12	1pm – 2pm
Year 13	2pm – 3pm

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Year Group / Tutor Groups	Time
Year 7 – L forms	8.30am – 9.20am
Year 7 – H forms	9.30am – 10.20am
Year 8 – L forms	10.40am – 11.30am
Year 8 – H forms	11.40am – 12.30pm
Year 9 – L forms	1pm – 1.50pm
Year 9 – H forms	2pm – 2.50pm

### Testing consent form

At the time of writing, nearly 90% of you have already completed the forms giving consent for your children to be tested – thank you so much for replying so promptly. If you haven't yet done this, please [click here](#) for further information and a link to the consent form.

### Online Learning

Live lessons will continue more-or-less as they have been for most of next week, with a couple of caveats.

Firstly, there will be **no live lessons on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. Work will be set via Teams instead and students will still be expected to complete this, but teachers will not be available to support. This is because teachers need to come into school in order to prepare classrooms and resources for re-opening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> (most teachers having not been able to come into school since Christmas).

Secondly, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, there won't be any live lessons for Year 11 during periods 1 and 2 or for Year 10 during periods 3 and 4. This is because students will be coming into school for tests at those times and therefore it makes more sense for us to set work via Teams that they complete before and after their trip to school.

### Examinations

Ofqual have now issued guidance for how grades are to be awarded this summer ([click here](#) for information on GCSE and A' levels and [click here](#) for information on vocational courses).

As expected, grades will be awarded by teacher assessment, with schools expected to ensure there are appropriate arrangements in place to ensure a sound evidence base for grades.

We are extremely conscious that Year 11 and 13 students will be very anxious to know more about what exactly this means for them and we want them to know that they are at the forefront of our minds; we will give everyone as much information as possible as soon as possible. At the same time, the guidance set out by Ofqual leaves schools with a huge amount of responsibility and scope to design the details of the process to be followed, and we must not rush things at the expense of doing it properly.

What we can say at this stage is that we will be organising substantial assessments in school for most subjects (although these might not be quite as formal as 'normal' exams, and probably not as lengthy as the full exams would have been). We don't yet know how many assessments or the exact format or timescales, but we can also say with certainty that students will get plenty of notice – indeed, it is unlikely at this stage that we do much before Easter. In setting these assessments, we will be able to take into account the impact of lockdown to ensure that papers give students the best chance of success. The results will clearly carry a great deal of weight in determining the final teacher-assessed grades but the process will allow at least some other evidence to be used to help ensure fairness to all and a form of 'safety net' should, for any reason, a student demonstrably under-perform in the latest assessments.

It almost seems silly to urge students not to worry because we know many will do anyway, but I am genuinely confident that we will be able to come up with a process that is fair and sensible and leads to students getting grades that reflect their ability.

### Bedding Plants

If you'd like to order any bedding plants, hanging baskets, patio pots or vegetables, please [click here](#) for an order form. This needs to be returned with payment by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Orders will be delivered before the Spring half-term break.

### LHS Lottery

Congratulations to Mrs Neal who was this week's school lottery winner! You could be a winner too!

If you have not signed up for our lottery yet, please head to our dedicated lottery website [here](#). If you want to find out how it works, please [click here](#). Tickets are only £1 each week. Your support would be hugely appreciated.

### Fundraising made easy

While we're in lockdown, most of us are shopping online. easyfundraising® is the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site. You can help us raise much needed funds for our PTA by simply clicking on [this link](#) before you make your online purchases. It is simple to use and won't cost you a penny. Simply search for Lymm High School PTA, start your shopping and raise funds whenever you shop. Thank you!

## LOWER SCHOOL

### Year 9 Choices

The online Choices form will be issued next week. The deadline for completion has been moved to the 5<sup>th</sup> of March.

## UPPER SCHOOL

### Year 10 Parents' Evening

This was calendared for 11<sup>th</sup> March but we have decided to postpone it so that teachers can spend some time with students back in school and therefore be in a better position to hold meaningful conversations when the time comes.

### Apprenticeships

The [Labour Market Information](#) section of our website now includes a list of current apprenticeships in the Warrington area and how to apply for them. This list is updated weekly.

## SIXTH FORM

### What's on?

Next week we have the following sessions on for our Sixth Form students:

Tuesday: Year 13 Students – Yipiyap Gap Year Opportunity

Wednesday: Year 12 Students – Loughborough University – Choosing University Courses